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County Employment and Wages in the Delmarva Peninsula – Fourth Quarter 2019 **Delmarva Peninsula Employment Increased Over the Year**

In December 2019, 636,480 workers were employed on the Delmarva Peninsula, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that from December 2018 to December 2019, employment on the peninsula increased 1.0 percent, less than the 1.2-percent advance nationwide. New Castle County, DE, with 298,546 workers, had the highest employment level among the area’s 14 counties and accounted for nearly half of the jobs on the Delmarva Peninsula in December 2019. Employment levels in the remaining Delaware counties, Sussex (81,494) and Kent (68,032), ranked second and third on the peninsula. (See [table A.](#))

Table A. Covered employment and wages in the United States and counties on the Delmarva Peninsula, fourth quarter 2019

Area	Employment December 2019		Average weekly wages Fourth Quarter 2019 ⁽¹⁾	
	Level	Rank	Level	Rank
United States ⁽²⁾	149,857,100	--	\$1,185	--
Delmarva ⁽³⁾	636,480	--	1,056	--
Kent, DE.....	68,032	3	900	5
New Castle, DE.....	298,546	1	1,252	1
Sussex, DE.....	81,494	2	874	7
Caroline, MD.....	10,037	11	865	9
Cecil, MD.....	34,053	5	986	2
Dorchester, MD.....	12,181	10	867	8
Kent, MD.....	7,860	12	863	10
Queen Anne's, MD.....	15,606	8	852	11
Somerset, MD.....	6,861	13	958	3
Talbot, MD.....	17,773	7	875	6
Wicomico, MD.....	46,070	4	903	4
Worcester, MD.....	21,143	6	753	13
Accomack, VA.....	12,774	9	802	12
Northampton, VA.....	4,050	14	706	14

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data for the Delmarva Peninsula were calculated for this release using published employment and wage levels for each county on the peninsula.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

The three Delaware counties had the highest employment levels on the Delmarva Peninsula and accounted for 70 percent of the area's workers in December 2019. Maryland's nine counties employed 27 percent of the workers on the peninsula and Virginia's two counties accounted for the remaining 3 percent. Following the three Delaware counties, two other counties had employment over 30,000—Wicomico (46,070) and Cecil (34,053), both in Maryland. Located at the southern tip of the peninsula, Northampton, VA, had the lowest employment at 4,050; Maryland's southernmost county, Somerset, was next with 6,861. One other county employed fewer than 10,000 workers—Kent, MD (7,860).

Workers on the Delmarva Peninsula earned an average of \$1,056 per week in the fourth quarter of 2019—\$129 below the national average of \$1,185. In addition to employing the most workers on the peninsula, New Castle, DE, also had the highest average weekly wage, at \$1,252. New Castle was the only county on the Delmarva Peninsula with an average weekly wage above the national average; the second-highest average wage on the peninsula was \$986 per week in Cecil, MD. Northampton, VA, at \$706, had the lowest average weekly wage on the Delmarva Peninsula, followed by Worcester, MD, and Accomack, VA, at \$753 and \$802, respectively. (See [chart 1](#).)

Additional statistics and other information

The Delmarva Peninsula, located on the East Coast of the United States, comprises portions of three states—Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. The Delmarva Peninsula includes Kent, New Castle, and Sussex Counties in Delaware; Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties in Maryland; and Accomack and Northampton Counties in Virginia.

For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2018 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2019, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2019 version of this news release. Tables and additional content from the 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are now available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm. The 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2020.

The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year

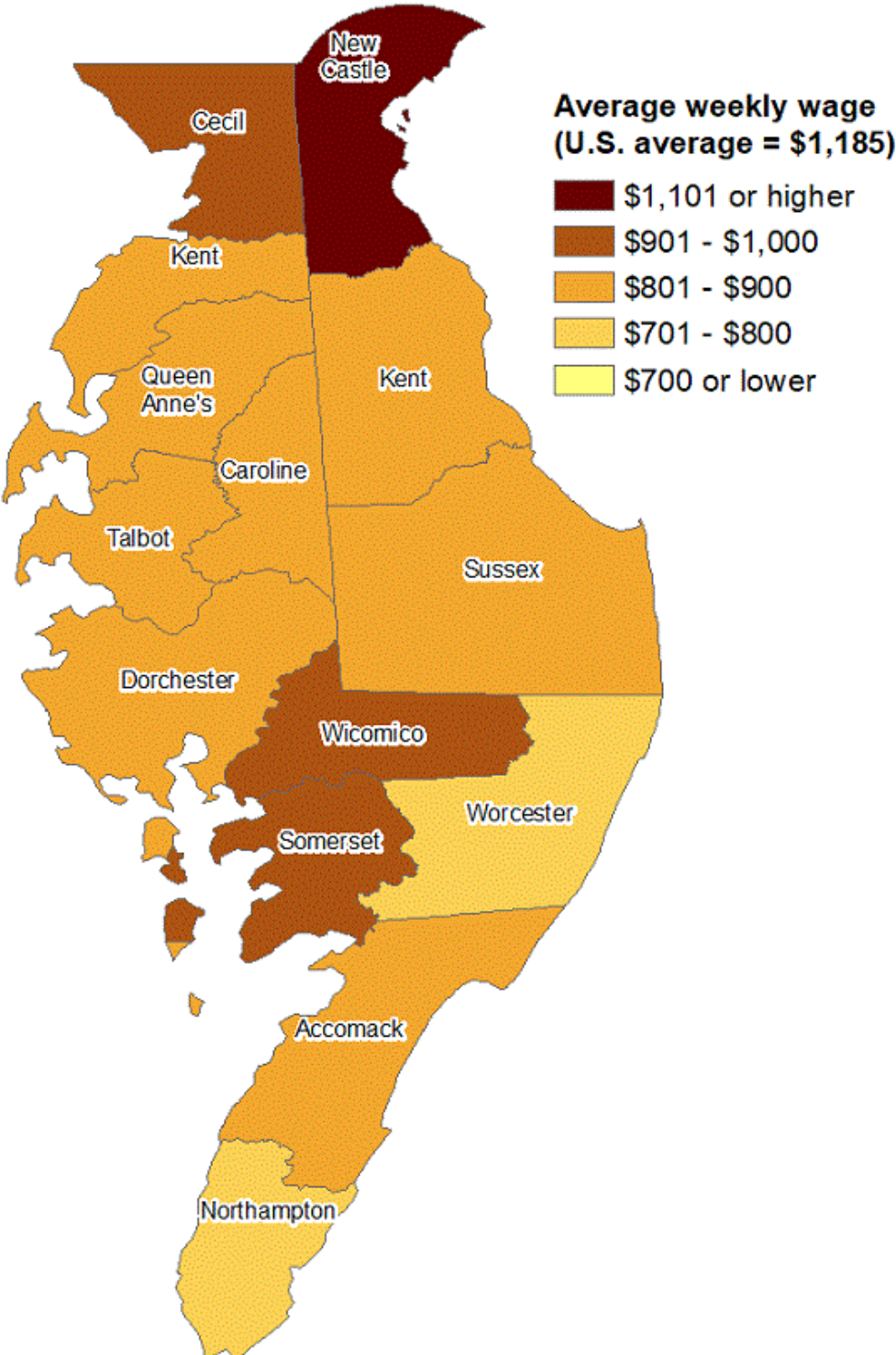
wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county on the Delmarva Peninsula, fourth quarter 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
NOTE: Data are preliminary.